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Multiple deadly blasts rock Brussels

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Bombs exploded at the Brussels airport and one of the city's metro stations Tuesday, killing at least 31 people and wounding dozens, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The two airport blasts, at least one of them blamed on a suicide bomber, left behind a chaotic scene of splattered blood in the departure lounge as windows were blown out, ceilings collapsed and travelers streamed out of the smoky building.

About an hour later, another bomb exploded on a rush-hour subway train near the European Union headquarters. Terrified passengers had to evacuate through darkened tunnels to safety.

"What we feared has happened," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel told reporters. "In this time of tragedy, this black moment for our country, I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity."

Belgium raised its terror alert to the highest level, diverting planes and trains and ordering people to stay where they were. Airports across Europe immediately tightened security.

"We are at war," French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said after a crisis meeting in Paris. "We have been subjected for the last few months in Europe to acts of war."

Added French President Francois Hollande: "Terrorists struck Brussels, but it was Europe that was targeted, and it is all the world which is concerned by this."

European security officials have been bracing for a major attack for weeks, and warned

US military family wounded

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — A U.S. military family was among the scores wounded in a series of bombings in Brussels on Tuesday claimed by the Islamic State group that killed more than 30 people, U.S. European Command said.

"We are aware of one U.S. servicemember and his family who were caught up in this tragedy. Due to privacy concerns, we are not releasing the status of their injuries at this time," said Lt. Col. Dave Westover, a EUCOM spokesman.

The servicemember is an Air Force lieutenant colonel, The Associated Press reported, citing unidentified U.S. officials.

To confirm the safety of all U.S. military personnel and families, including those on pre-approved leave and business travel, EUCOM is requiring all subordinate commands and units to account for their personnel, Westover said.

U.S. Army Europe also advised any troops traveling in the Brussels area to make immediate contact with their unit.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the United States is working to account for all U.S. civilians and servicemembers in Belgium.

Three missionaries from Utah were seriously injured in the airport attack, Mormon church officials said, and have been hospitalized.

USAREUR and Marine Forces Europe and Africa issued temporary travel restrictions for Belgium for their personnel in Europe, a move that could extend to other services as military officials confer with force protection staff.

EUCOM, USAREUR and the U.S. Embassy in Belgium were advising personnel in the Brussels area to avoid public transportation "until further notice."

At military installations in Belgium, security guards were operating in a state of heightened alert.

"The USAG Benelux Directorate of Emergency Services is asking visitors to be patient and understanding as they access military facilities," U.S. Army Garrison Benelux said in a Facebook post.

Brussels is home to the headquarters of the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

Carter told a House Armed Services Committee hearing that "in the face of these acts of terrorism, the United States stands in strong solidarity with our strong ally Belgium."

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that the Islamic State group was actively preparing to strike. The arrest Friday of Salah Abdeslam, a key suspect in the November attacks in Paris,

heightened those fears, as investigators said many more people were involved than originally thought and that some are still on the loose.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Brussels attacks, saying in a posting on the group's Amaq news agency that its extremists opened fire in the airport and "several of them" detonated suicide belts. It said another suicide attacker struck in the subway.

The posting claimed the attack was in response to Belgium's support of the international coalition arrayed against the group.

Michel said there was no immediate evidence linking the attacks with Abdeslam. After his arrest, Abdeslam told authorities he had created a new network and was planning new attacks.

U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to "do whatever is necessary" to help Belgian authorities seek justice.

"We stand in solidarity with them in condemning these outrageous attacks against innocent people," Obama said in Havana, where he was closing a three-day visit.

Western Europe has lived for decades under the threat of violence from homegrown nationalist and revolutionary movements. Muslim extremists from North Africa and the Middle East have attacked civilian targets without warning, ranging from France's 1960s war in Algeria through Libya's 1988 downing of an airline over Scotland to the 2004-05 attacks on the public transportation systems of London and Madrid.

Certain neighborhoods in Brussels, like the Molenbeek quarter, have bred extremists and supplied foreign fighters. Plotters linked to the Paris attacks and others have either moved through or lived in parts of the city.

Lawmaker criticizes ‘artificial’ cap in Iraq

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said the Obama administration’s “artificial” cap on the number of troops in Iraq might be increasing danger for U.S. forces there.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said the military is sidestepping the publicly announced cap by rotating in temporary troops who are less experienced in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who testified to the House committee on Tuesday, denied the military is cutting any corners and said all troops in Iraq are properly trained.

The Pentagon refused Monday to release the total number of servicemembers deployed to Iraq following the death over the weekend of Marine Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin at a newly created U.S. artillery base near Mosul. The number of troops in Iraq is limited to 3,870 unless President Barack Obama au-

thorizes an increase, although troops rotated in for short periods are not counted.

“The argument is that if you are rotating people in every 30 days or whatever it is to keep below the troop caps, then the people who are rotating in are not going to have time to get acclimated to the environment and may be at increased risk,” Thornberry said. As the U.S. ramps up operations in Iraq, the administration’s caps also might be limiting the number of troops dedicated to protecting servicemembers who are deployed, Thornberry said.

Obama had touted an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the rise of the Islamic State group and resurgent violence has scuttled those plans. Still, the president has hewn to strict caps on the number of servicemembers deployed — at least publicly — to avoid a slide back into the large-scale military operations of the last decade.

Obama to Cubans: Look to the future with hope

Associated Press

HAVANA — President Barack Obama on Tuesday urged Cubans to look to the future with hope, casting his historic visit to the communist nation as a moment to “bury the last remnants of the Cold War in the Americas.”

Obama’s address opened a whirlwind final day on the island that included a meeting with Cuban dissidents and attendance at a baseball game featuring the country’s beloved national team — events made possible by the normalization of U.S. and Cuban relations 15 months ago.

“Havana is only 90 miles from Florida, but to get here we had to travel a great distance,”

Obama said during his address at Havana’s Grand Theater.

Despite the enthusiasm in both the U.S. and Cuba about the new relationship between the former foes, Obama acknowledged the deep differences that persist, including on human rights and democracy. With Cuban President Raul Castro looking on from a balcony, he called for citizens to be able to “speak their minds without fear” and pick their leaders in free and fair elections.

The president was cheered enthusiastically when he reiterated his call for the U.S. Congress to lift the economic embargo on Cuba, calling it an “outdated burden on the Cuban people.”

Zumwalt heads out to sea for 2nd trial

BY DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — The nation’s largest and most expensive destroyer headed out to sea Monday for final builder trials before being presented to the Navy for inspection.

Engineers and technicians at Bath Iron Works in Maine are going to focus on propulsion, mobility and safety to ensure the future USS Zumwalt is shipshape before the next trials, in which the Navy will perform a predelivery inspection.

Rear Adm. Peter Fanta, director of surface warfare, said he likes what he has heard from the ship’s commanding officer during the first trials in December.

“He was extremely impressed with the stability of the ship, particularly in hard turns, particularly in its sea-keeping ability,” he told The Associated Press.

The 600-foot ship is unlike

anything ever built for the Navy. It features an angular shape to deflect enemy radar, a wave-piercing “tumble-home” hull, composite deckhouse, electric propulsion and new guns. Automation allows it to operate with a smaller crew than existing destroyers.

But those innovations come at a high cost. The Zumwalt, the first of three ships in the class, will cost at least \$4.4 billion.

The price ballooned to the point that some in the Navy tried to kill the program. Instead, the program originally envisioned for 32 ships was truncated.

The ship, which will be based in San Diego, stands to play a role in the Obama administration’s “rebalance” of resources to Asia and the Pacific, where China is flexing its military muscle in the South China Sea. But Fanta said he’ll want a full assessment of capabilities before determining exactly how the ship will be used.

3 sailors still hospitalized after Eisenhower accident

From wire reports

NORFOLK, Va. — Three of eight sailors injured Friday while working on the flight deck of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower remained hospitalized Monday, Naval Air Force Atlantic spokesman Mike Maus said.

The sailors were injured Friday afternoon when a cable used to stop a landing aircraft broke. Four were flown by helicopter to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in Virginia, and two were flown to Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, also in Virginia.

Two sailors remained at Sentara on Monday with injuries that were not life-threatening. Another sailor was still hospi-

talized in Portsmouth, also with injuries that weren’t life-threatening, Maus said.

One of two sailors treated aboard the Eisenhower returned to work on limited duty, Maus said. The other is being treated on an outpatient basis at Portsmouth Naval.

Flight-deck operations also resumed Sunday, Maus said. The Eisenhower was in the second day of training Friday off the coast of Virginia when the cable broke as an E-2C Hawkeye was attempting to land. The Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group is expected to replace the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group in the Middle East this summer.

Some surprises in Sweet 16 lineup

Associated Press

The NCAA Tournament has reached the Sweet 16, and many of the usual suspects made it. There also are a few surprise teams and matchups. Don't feel bad if you're having trouble keeping track of it all.

Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli spoke for many over the weekend when he said there's only so much college basketball a person can absorb when there are games on television night after night starting in November. In fact, he confessed he knew nothing about his team's second-round opponent, the Oregon Ducks, before he found out his Hawks would be playing them.

No. 1 seeds Kansas, North Carolina, Oregon and Virginia and No. 2s Oklahoma and Villanova have gotten lots of attention. So with Martelli in mind, let's throw out some nuggets on some of the other teams so we're ready when the games resume Thursday.

Double-digit seeds: The Midwest Regional semifinal between No. 11 Gonzaga and No. 10 Syracuse on Friday will mark the fourth time double-digit seeds have met in the Sweet 16

since seeding began in 1979. The other occasions were Dayton-Stanford in 2014, VCU-Florida State in 2011 and Providence-Chattanooga in 1997.

The Gonzaga-Syracuse matchup was predicted on 1.3 percent of the 13 million brackets submitted to the ESPN Tournament Challenge. Gonzaga is no stranger to the Sweet 16, having made it seven times. But what in the name of Adam Morrison are the Zags — yes, they're the Bulldogs, but we know them better as the Zags — doing here this year?

They were 21-7 after losing to Saint Mary's a second time in the regular season on Feb. 21 and their NCAA hopes were wavering. They haven't lost since. They clinched their NCAA bid by beating Saint Mary's in the West Coast Conference championship game and posted wins by a combined 39 points over sixth-seeded Seton Hall and No. 3 Utah. Big men Domantas Sabonis and Kyle Wiltjer are the best known Zags, and guard Eric McClellan has stepped up his game of late.

Syracuse was in the news early in the season when coach Jim Boeheim served a nine-game suspension for NCAA rules violations, and the Orange were on the

tournament bubble after going 9-9 in Atlantic Coast Conference games and losing their last three games.

Lo and behold, the Orange got in, opened with a 19-point win over Dayton and then won their surprise matchup with No. 15 seed Middle Tennessee by 25. Now Syracuse, in its 19th regional semifinal, is among the record six ACC teams in the Sweet 16 with a balanced attack led by Michael Gbinije, who has scored 10 or more points in 34 straight games.

Badgers are back: Last time Wisconsin was in this big a spotlight, Frank Kaminsky, Sam Dekker and coach Bo Ryan were leading the Badgers to the 2015 national championship game against Duke. All those guys are gone, and here the Badgers are in the Sweet 16 for the fifth time in six years thanks to Bronson Koenig's buzzer-beating three-pointer against Xavier.

This journey wasn't expected back in November when Western Illinois — which finished last in the Summit League — upset a Badgers team that was ranked 17th. Ryan took everyone by surprise by retiring soon after, and interim coach Greg Gard led Wisconsin to a tie for third place in the Big Ten to earn the full-time

gig.

The seventh-seeded Badgers face No. 6 Notre Dame in Philadelphia on Friday. Koenig and Nigel Hayes played key roles during last year's run. But the Irish better be ready for the challenge of 6-foot-9, 235-pound redshirt freshman Ethan Happ and 6-8, 230-pound Vitto Brown in the paint.

About the Irish: Rex Pflueger's name won't soon be forgotten among Notre Dame fans. He's the guy who tipped in a rebound ahead of the buzzer to beat Stephen F. Austin and send the sixth-seeded Irish to the Sweet 16 for the second straight year. Fun fact about the freshman: He plays beach volleyball whenever he goes home to Dana Point, Calif.

The NIT bounce: Bet you forgot that Miami made it to the 2015 championship game of the NIT, losing 66-64 to Stanford in overtime. The third-seeded Hurricanes, who play No. 2 Villanova in Louisville on Thursday, have gone 27-7 this season with NIT holdovers Sheldon McClellan, Davon Reed and Ja'Quan Newton leading the way along with Angel Rodriguez, who missed the NIT run because of injury.

Washington stuns No. 2 Maryland women

Associated Press

Washington pulled off another upset by a seven seed, knocking Maryland out of the NCAA Tournament. The Huskies are back in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2001. That was the start of a good night for the Pac-12, which has four teams in the Sweet 16 for the first time in conference history.

A glance at those moving on:

Bridgeport Regional

No. 1 UConn 97, No. 9 Duquesne 51: At Storrs, Conn., Breanna Stewart scored 21 points while Morgan Tuck and Moriah Jefferson each added 20 in their final game together at Gampel Pavilion to lead UConn to a victory over Duquesne.

Stewart also grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked five shots. Tuck added nine rebounds and both she and Jefferson had seven assists as the Huskies (34-0) moved into the regional semifinals for the 23rd consecutive year.

Deva'Nyar Workman scored 13 of her 17 points in the second half and April Robinson added 16 points for Duquesne (28-6), which was playing in its first NCAA Tournament.

The Huskies extended their winning streak to 71 games, making it the second longest in team and Division I women's history. They own the top three streaks on that list and surpassed the 70-game streak they set between November 2001 and November 2003.

No. 2 Texas 73, No. 10 Missouri 55: At Austin, Texas, Ariel Atkins scored 22 points and Texas earned its second con-

secutive trip to the Sweet 16 with a win over Missouri with an impressive display of speed and athleticism that overmatched the bigger Tigers.

Lashann Higgs scored 11 points and was a sparkplug off the bench for the Longhorns (30-4), who head to the Bridgeport, Conn., Regional looking to make their deepest run in the postseason since a Final Four appearance in 2003. Texas will play UCLA in the Sweet 16.

Sophie Cunningham scored 23 points for Missouri (22-10), which had made the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2006.

No. 3 UCLA 72, No. 6 South Florida 67: At Los Angeles, Jordin Canada scored 19 points, making six free throws in the final 25 seconds, and UCLA held on to beat South Florida.

Nirra Fields added 14 points and Kari Korver added 12 as the Bruins (26-8), who had led by 17 points in the second quarter, needed to make 7 of 8 free throws down the stretch to advance to the Sweet 16, where they will meet Texas.

It's the first time that the Bruins advanced to the regional semifinals since 1999, when they lost 88-62 to Louisiana Tech in the Elite Eight.

Lexington Regional

No. 1 Notre Dame 87, No. 9 Indiana 70: At South Bend, Ind., Lindsay Allen scored a season-high 22 points, Brianna Turner added 18 points and 10 rebounds and Notre Dame finally broke away from Indiana with a 15-2 run that started late in the third quarter to beat the Hoosiers.

The Hoosiers (21-12) used a 12-1 run, led

by three baskets by Alexis Gassion and a pair by Amanda Cahill, to cut the score to 56-54 on a basket by Lindsay Leikem with 2:47 left in the third quarter.

The Irish quickly regained control with a layup by Arike Ogunbowale and a basket by Allen when she stole the inbound basket by Leikem. Madison Cable then hit a pair of free throws after being fouled hard by Karlee McBride, the younger sister of former Notre Dame standout Kayla McBride, to give the Irish (33-1) a 60-54 lead.

No. 3 Kentucky 79, No. 6 Oklahoma 58: At Lexington, Ky., Janee Thompson scored 16 points, including nine straight over the third and fourth quarters, to help Kentucky beat Oklahoma.

The Wildcats (25-7) earned their fifth Sweet 16 berth in seven seasons and will play a few blocks away from campus at Rupp Arena, home of the men's team.

Gioya Carter's 12 points led Oklahoma (22-11).

No. 4 Stanford 66, No. 12 South Dakota State 65: At Stanford, Calif., Lili Thompson made a go-ahead three-point play with 8.2 seconds left and Erica McCall delivered a big block moments later, lifting Stanford into its ninth straight Sweet 16 with a comeback win against South Dakota State.

McCall swatted Macy Miller's shot in the key with 1 second left to seal it. Thompson, who missed a 3-point try with 18 seconds to go, made a driving layup with 8.2 seconds left and converted the free throw as the Cardinal erased a five-point deficit over the final 3 minutes.

Briana Roberson hit a three-pointer with 1:11 left that pulled Stanford within 64-63.

What a finish for Tara VanDerveer's team in the 1,000th game at Stanford for the Hall of Fame coach.

The Cardinal (26-7) will face Notre Dame on Friday in the Lexington Regional.

No. 7 Washington 74, No. 2 Maryland 65: At College Park, Md., Kelsey Plum scored 32 points, and Washington shocked Maryland to reach the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 15 years.

Maryland (31-4) came in with a rich history of success in the postseason and a 10-game winning streak. The two-time Big Ten champions were also playing on their home floor.

None of that mattered to the seventh-seeded Huskies (24-10), who squeezed past Penn in the opening round for their first NCAA Tournament victory since 2006.

Dallas Regional

No. 5 Florida State 74, No. 4 Texas A&M 56: At College Station, Texas, Adut Bulgak scored 18, Leticia Romero added 17 and Florida State built a big lead early and held on for a win over Texas A&M.

The victory puts the Seminoles in the round of 16 for the second straight season and fourth time overall where they'll meet Baylor on Saturday.

Florida State (25-7) led by just three points at halftime before pulling away for a 72-55 win over Middle Tennessee State in the first round on Saturday. Things were much different on Monday when the Seminoles raced out to a 21-point lead by halftime thanks to six early 3-pointers and withstood a late run to eliminate the Aggies (22-10) on their home court.



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Hornets halt Spurs' streak

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Eleven seconds into the second quarter, Charlotte Hornets coach Steve Clifford called a timeout with his team trailing the San Antonio Spurs 30-7.

"I told them please try harder," Clifford said after the game with a laugh. "I'm begging you. I know y'all make more money than me. I know most of you could get me fired. I'm just saying, please."

Jeremy Lin answered that plea, scoring 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to help Charlotte rally for a 91-88 victory on Monday night, snapping the Spurs' six-game winning streak and denying them their 60th win of the season.

While perhaps not quite "Linsanity II," the 23-point lead was the largest surrendered by the Spurs in the Tim Duncan era, which began in 1997, according to information provided to the Hornets by Elias.

Lin was 11-for-18 from the field and hit all four three-point attempts, including three in the fourth quarter, and provided the go-ahead jumper with 48 seconds left.

"He was spectacular," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "We couldn't stop him all night. He had a great night. He was wonderful."

Charlotte became the first team to score seven points or fewer in the opening quarter and come back to win since the Utah Jazz against the New Jersey Nets on Dec. 12, 2008.

"We turned the ball over a little too much — just inconsistency throughout," Duncan said. "It was an unfortunate loss, but we will move on from it and hopefully become better from it."

Courtney Lee had 17 points, including 14 in a pivotal third quarter.

Nicolas Batum added 15 points for the

Hornets, who bounced back from a disappointing loss to the Denver Nuggets on Saturday.

"We just turned it up," Lin said. "We just played hard. I'm so thankful to God because I've been struggling so much. We lost one the other night we felt like we shouldn't have lost. So to come out here and get this win is a huge boost for us."

Tony Parker had 19 points for the Spurs, while LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points and 12 rebounds. Duncan had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Cavaliers 124, Nuggets 91: LeBron James scored 33 points and had his 41st career triple-double as host Cleveland clinched its second straight Central Division title.

James added 11 rebounds and 11 assists before checking out with 6:02 left to a thunderous ovation. He scored 17 in the first quarter, helping the Cavs build a 19-point lead and erase the memory of an embarrassing loss on Saturday in Miami.

Pistons 92, Bucks 91: Andre Drummond's tip-in with 2 seconds remaining lifted host Detroit over Milwaukee.

The Pistons, who are in a tight race for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, came out inexplicably flat and trailed by 17 points in the first half. They were down 13 in the third quarter before chipping away at Milwaukee's lead in the fourth.

Warriors 109, Timberwolves 104: Draymond Green had 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists to help visiting Golden State narrowly avoid its first two-game skid in nearly a year.

Klay Thompson scored 17 points and hit all five of his three-pointers, and the Warriors (63-7) overcame a second straight poor shooting night from Stephen Curry. The reigning MVP missed 11 of his 17 shots, including seven of his nine

three-pointers, but still had 19 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds.

Bulls 109, Kings 102: Derrick Rose and Taj Gibson had 18 points each, Doug McDermott added 16 and Pau Gasol had 14 points and 14 rebounds to lead host Chicago to a comeback victory over Sacramento.

Rose was 9-for-15 from the field and hit a couple of 15-foot jumpers during Chicago's decisive 10-0 run in the fourth quarter to rally from a five-point deficit.

Wizards 112, Hawks 102: John Wall scored 27 points and dished out 14 assists and Bradley Beal chipped in with 25 points to help visiting Washington extended its winning streak to a season-high five games.

The Hawks came into the game having won five straight and eight of their past nine, pushing to a season-high 12 games above .500. But the Wizards bolstered their playoff hopes with a dazzling offensive display, shooting 51 percent from the field and knocking down 13-for-25 from three-point range.

Pacers 91, 76ers 75: Paul George scored 15 points and Monta Ellis added 13 to help host Indiana pull away from Philadelphia.

Indiana snapped a two-game losing streak and won for just the second time in five games as it tries to take advantage of a favorable schedule to make a late-season playoff push.

Grizzlies 103, Suns 97: Lance Stephenson scored 12 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter as visiting Memphis pulled out a win.

The Grizzlies scored the last eight points of the game, holding the Suns scoreless the final 2:12.

Celtics 107, Magic 96: Isaiah Thomas had 28 points and seven assists and host Boston held on to beat Orlando.

Tourney director resigns

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The tournament director of the BNP Paribas Open who said women's pro tennis players "ride on the coattails of the men" resigned Monday night, ending his 29-year association with the event.

Tournament owner Larry Ellison said in a statement that Raymond Moore was quitting as chief executive officer and tournament director of the \$7 million event featuring men's and women's players in the California desert. Moore informed Ellison of his decision when they spoke earlier in the day.

"Ray let me know that he has decided to step down from his roles as CEO and tournament director effective immediately," Ellison said. "I fully understand his decision."

A tournament spokesman could offer no further details on Moore's resignation, citing only Ellison's statement.

Moore apologized after he was roundly criticized by executives from the women's and men's pro tours, players Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka and on social media for his comments Sunday.

The 69-year-old former touring pro from South Africa had been CEO of the tournament since 2012. He was involved with the event for 29 years as a former owner and managing partner before assuming his most recent post. He oversaw the operations of the tournament and the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, which Ellison also owns. Years ago, Moore and fellow ex-player Charlie Pasarell started PM Sports Management, which oversaw the tournament as it expanded.

"In my next life when I come back I want to be someone in the WTA because they ride on the coattails of the men. They don't make any decisions and they are lucky. They are very, very lucky," Moore said. "If I was a lady player, I'd go down every night on my knees and thank God that Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal were born, because they have carried this sport."

He also referred to women's players as "physically attractive and competitively attractive." Moore later apologized, calling his comments "in extremely poor taste and erroneous."

"I am truly sorry for those remarks, and apologize to all the players and WTA as a whole," the statement said. "We had a women's final today that reflects the strength of the players, especially Serena and Victoria, and the entire WTA. Again, I am truly sorry for my remarks."

Moore clearly had no intention to leave his post based on comments he made to reporters Sunday on the last day of the two-week tournament. Before the backlash over his controversial comments began, he was asked how long he planned to remain in charge.

"Firstly, I love what I'm doing. I'm passionate about it. I enjoy it," Moore said. "Who knows who the face of the tournament will be down the road? But I don't think that, oh, I'm going to stop next year or three years."

Ellison, a billionaire and co-founder of Oracle Corp., credited Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova and Serena and Venus Williams, as well as other female athletes, for their leadership in treating women and men equally in sports.

Flyers win for 10th time in 13 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — To a man, the Philadelphia Flyers were feeling good about themselves and the brand of hockey they've been playing nearly every night.

Down the hallway, the New York Islanders were searching for a solution to halt their late-season tailspin.

Brandon Manning's first NHL goal midway through the second period snapped a tie and powered the Flyers to a 4-1 win over the Islanders on Monday night.

Nick Cousins, Sam Gagner and Claude Giroux also scored for Philadelphia, which won for the 10th time in 13 games. The surging Flyers closed within one point of Detroit for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"Our team has played well the last 30 games," coach Dave Hakstol said.

Philadelphia trails the Islanders by three points for the first wild card. The Flyers are 2-1-0 against New York this season, with one game remaining.

"[We] control our own fate," said Steve Mason, who made 23 saves.

The Islanders have lost five of six at a most inopportune time. They fell to 21-9-4 in their first season at Barclays Center, after spending the franchise's first 43 years at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Long Island.

New York finishes the regular season by playing seven of its final 11 games in Brooklyn.

"Obviously, it hasn't gone well the last

couple of games," captain John Tavares said. "It's obviously been a tough stretch. It starts with myself. I have to elevate my game where we need it."

Kyle Okposo scored for New York, and Thomas Greiss stopped 21 shots.

Cousins opened the scoring at 2:24 of the second period with his sixth of the season. He outduelled Thomas Hickey in front before tapping the rebound of Jake Voracek's shot into a half-empty net.

Okposo tied it 90 seconds later with his 20th of the season. The pending unrestricted free agent jammed a loose puck under Mason to reach 20 goals for the third time in his NHL career.

But that was all the offense the Islanders could muster.

"(Tavares) is trying to lead our game. He's doing the best he can, but the supporting staff and a few other guys, it's non-existent right now," coach Jack Capuano said. "You're going to need the secondary guys to pick up some of our leaders."

Philadelphia regained the lead when Manning beat Greiss high to the glove side, moments after the Flyers had successfully killed his 2-minute minor for cross-checking Johnny Boychuk.

Manning's first goal came in his 66th NHL game.

"Been a long time coming," he said. "Got a lucky bounce."

Mason's stop on Nikolay Kulemin at the doorstep with 2:31 left in the period kept Philadelphia ahead.

"Three or four times he kept us in the

game or in the lead," Manning said.

Gagner scored his eighth goal at 4:22 of the third to make it 3-1.

Mason had to make two stops on Josh Bailey before Ryan Strome's attempt hit the post with less than 10 minutes left. Giroux added an empty-net goal with 26.9 seconds remaining.

Rangers 4, Panthers 2: Rick Nash scored his first goal since returning from a leg injury and Henrik Lundqvist made 25 saves in leading New York over host Florida.

Viktor Stalberg, Mats Zuccarello and Tanner Glass also scored for the Rangers, who moved two points ahead of idle Pittsburgh for second place in the Metropolitan Division.

Predators 5, Kings 2: Ryan Johansen had a goal and two assists to lead Nashville past visiting Los Angeles.

James Neal added a goal and an assist for the Predators, winners in three of their last four. Mike Fisher, Filip Forsberg and Roman Josi also scored.

Forsberg became the fifth player in Predators history to score 30 goals in a season.

Maple Leafs 5, Flames 2: William Nylander had a goal and two assists in Toronto's victory over visiting Calgary.

It was the first three-point game of Nylander's career. The performance came two days after the 19-year-old had his first multipoint effort in a win over Buffalo.

Nylander has two goals and five points in his past two games.